A BILL AND ANSWER,

BETWIXT

JACK CATCH Plaintiff,

AND

SLINGSBY BETHEL,

& *al.* Defendents,

Of the Year, 1681.

Published for the Satisfaction of All True Lovers of Conscience and Equity.

This may be Printed,
Rich. Pocock, March 8. 1682.

LONDON,

Printed by *J. B.* for *Joseph Hindmarsh* at the Golden-Ball over against the *Royall-Exchange* in *Cornhill*, 1686.

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Betwixt *Jack Catch* Plaintiff,

and *Slingsby Bethel*,

& *al.* Defendents.

Catch agt *Bethel* } *Bill in Equity.*

HUmbly Complaining, and with reason good,
As will appear when he is understood.
Your Orator, *John Ketch*, *St. Giles*, Esquire,
Comes with all due submission, to desire,
That he of this High Court may Justly have
Justice against an Old *True Prot'stant* Knave;
(To wit,) 'gainst *Bethelesky*, who was late
Controuler of that strong and famous Gate
That holds the Thieves and Rebells of the Town,
When caught, 'till Sov'reign Justice cuts them down.
And being, as aforesaid, in that place,
Preferr'd by Knaves and Fools: He tells his Case,
In manner following: Worthy Friend and Brother,
Says he (and so we still did call each other;)
'Tis not unknown I am sure dear *Jack*, to you,

What

What my New Office does oblige me to.

'Tis true (my old acquaintance, Friend, and Brother)
That I can Hang and Head, well as another:
But having other buſineſs to diſpatch,
(And then he hugg'd me cloſe) my Deareſt *Catch*,
I muſt if we agree, leave that affair
To your wiſe management, your Art, and Care,
I know y'are Active, Reſolute, and Stout,
And able as my ſelf (I'me old) to do't
And abler, for in truth, ſince 48.
My loving friend, I never did the feat,
To ſpeak on, tho' a friend to the profeſſion,
And would again, upon the ſame occaſion,
Faithfully ſerve the People of the Nation.
But to my great Content, dear *Jack* I ſee
While you ſurvive, there'l be no need of me,
Thou art the Top of our Fraternity.
Thus he cajol'd your humble Orator,
Who having Brandy ta'ne too much, and *Beer*,
Was ſoon prevail'd upon with theſe fair words,
To take the management of th'Ax and Cords:
Which he perform'd for the Defendents Year,
As to this Court he hopes to make appear,
And That, he did it at ſo Cheap a rate,
Had he been paid 'twould ſcarce have found him meat.

Not

Not then ſuſpecting what would be the End on't,
Nor could believe this Canting damn'd Deſendent
Had a deſign to Cheat, at leaſt to differ
With one of his Profeſſion, and in Nature
Not much unlike to him; but for all that,
Your Orator can't get a ſingle Groat,
Altho' he hath performed every part
Of his Agreement, yet to his grief of heart
The juſt Reward of all his Care and pains
Still in this *Bethelesky's* hands remains;
And there for ever ſince deny'd, it muſt,
Unleſs the Court ſhall force him to be Juſt.
The Bargain being made only between
Our ſelves, and ſome good friends of his and mine,
Who ſince that time are either *Hang'd*, or *gone*,
So that in truth your Orator has none
To prove the Truth of the aforeſaid matter,
Or if he had, what would he be the better,
Were they unhang'd? and here, what ſignifies
In this affair, a thouſand Witneſſes?
For he (may't pleaſe ye) 's Hand and Glove with one
[*Goodenough*]
That Juries make for Country and for Town,
By Nature bow'd that he may ne're look up,
For in his leaden face, Gibbet, and Rope,

In every meager line do's plain appear
His restless Eyes speak Jealousy and fear;
A gate so out of mode, and meen so odd,
He sins that dares believe him made by God.
The Nauseous Spawn of a seditious brood,
A Sinner in his Fathers reins and seed;
He first spoke Treason in his Mothers Arms,
Adapted to all villanies and harms:
Considering which, your Orator as well
May expect Justice from a Court of Hell,
Where *Pluto* and the damned perjur'd Furys,
Are Righteous, to this wretched Rascals Juries;
And you may please to know, both these Defendents
Are Presbyters, and have been Independents:
And any one of that profession may
Plot and speak Treason, Take and never pay;
Abuse the State, At Church and Church-men rail,
Protected by an *Ignoramus* Hayle,
'Gainst which, in *Middlesex*, there's no defence,
There's nothing like a Juries Impudence,
Prove all you can 'gainst *Whigg*, what then comes out?
The Jury they return a *Protestant*:
And the Debt's paid, just so 'tis like to be,
With your poor helpless Orator, if he
In this high Court can have no Remedy;

As

As in this Caſe (an't pleaſe ye) is plainly ſeen
After your Orator had often been,
As he well hop'd, and was advis'd he might,
With the old *Hamburgher* to ask his Right:
We put him off ſtill with one Trick or Fetch,
But after all, ſee how this wicked Wretch,
This lewd Defendent ſerv'd him, *Sans remorſe*,
Avaunt he cry'd, go hang and take your Courſe.
Sometimes pretending with Contempt and Scorn,
He had a hangman been e'er I was born,
And hop'd he ſhould be ſo when I was dead,
And therefore of me had no uſe or need,
When he well knoweth how we did agree,
(As I before have ſaid) for Sallery.
But theſe Reproaches made your Orator,
('Tho' poor enough) his angry heart to ſtir,
And boldly ſaid, he hoped that he might
Find out a way to get his honeſt Right.
Then *Splay-foot* ſpoke, I mean t'other Defendent,
And with a hanging look, Cry'd make an end on't;
For (my old Friend *Jack Ketch*) I here aſſure ye
If you an Action bring, I'le bring a Jury.
That Cut my very heart, 'twas then I knew
I could have no Relief except from you,
Your Orator then told them his ſad State,

That

That if He were not paid he could not eat.
All's one the Rogues cry'd out, Sirrah *avaunt*,
'Twas you that hang'd our Friend the Proteſtant;
You might have ſtaid at home, and not have gone
To hang the honeſt Joyner at *Oxon*.
Threatning ſometimes how if I ſtaid they'd ſerve me,
That is, lock me up in Priſon, and then ſtarve me,
As they had ſerv'd good men the year before
I'th Compter, it was then I ſlipt the door,
For I well knew their malice to the poor.
Poſſeſt with ſuch a fear I never ſince
Durſt ('till before this Court) make my pretence;
Knowing in truth no reaſonable Cauſe
To expect help in *Middleſex* by Laws:
For theſe Defendents are thoſe Wights ſo famous
For Murthering Juſtice with an *Ignoramus*,
'Gainſt Fact prov'd ne're ſo poſitive and well,
On mighty *Charles*'s ſide, and will they deal
Better with me? tho' I believe it's true
They love me much the better of the two.
We're told yet that an Action muſt be laid,
If it be brought where we the bargain made;
Now foraſmuch as theſe Defendents may
By Anſwer, ſince there is no other way,
Set forth the truth, if poſſible, of all

The things before alledg'd, both great and ſmall;
Firſt whether Old *Hamburgh* did not agree
To pay your Orator a Sallary;
And he to have the Antient Fee, and all
The Cloaths the Malefactors dy'd withall.
And alſo whether he during the Year
Aforeſaid, did not oft receive and wear
Much of the aforeſaid Cloaths, and alſo ſold
Great quantities for Silver and for Gold,
And how much he receiv'd for Goods ſo vended,
In ready Coin, before his Year was ended,
And in particular what part he wore
Of the ſaid Wares, and what he has in ſtore,
To lyne his Thrid-bare Cloak and Deck his Whore,
And that the ſaid Defendent may ſet forth,
(He underſtands it well) what it was worth
To be a hangman for a year and better,
And whether he (Himſelf) knew any fitter
Beſides himſelf; then your Poor Orator may
Shew cauſe (if any) why he does not pay
Your Orator the Summ agreed upon,
And whether he a Bargain made or none,
If there were no Agreement, then that he
On fair Accounts may pay a Moyety
Of the years profits to your Orator,
Which he believes but reaſonable and fair;

And hopes to th' Court it will appear to be,
Duely Conſidered, but right Equity:
Alſo that *Ignoramus Minor* th' other
Defendent and the whiggiſh roguey brother
Of *Bethelesky* may on Oath declare
(It may be by a miracle hee'l Swear)
The truth of all the Matter that he knows
Of the aforeſaid bargain and the Cloths.
And alſo whether he did not intend
(An Action being brought) for to befriend
Th'other Defendent with a whiggiſh Jury;
And whether once he did not in his fury
Declare to that Effect, as he was ſitting
With *Bethelesky* in a Garret Eating
Some bread and butter, which was ſhort of weight
Found in his time, and now his Worſhips meat;
And if he did not mean by ſuch his doing
To break your Orators deſign of ſueing;
But, (may it pleaſe the Court) as People ſay
This *Bethelesky* means to ſteal away,
And further 'tis reported, that he does
(Your Orator comes lately by the News)
For *Poland* mean to go, to *Warſaw*, where
He's lately choſen Executioner:
And does in ſpeech give out he means to live,
A hangman there, till the fools make him Shreve;

And this is like enough, for they have there
A Common Councell juſt as we have here:
As wiſe as honeſt and as Loyall too,
And what can't ſuch a worthy Councel do?
Who knows but that he may as well arrive
(Altho' a hangman) to be *Warſaws* Shrieve,
As *Londons*: *London* is as proud and great,
As *Warſaw*, and yet they did once think fit
To mount the Spark in Scarlet and yet ne're
Believ'd him worſe, tho' Executioner
Even to his Proper Maſter, but ſhould he
Get in this quality beyond the Sea
He had as good go quite to Hell for me:
For ſhould your Orator ſend for his Debt
To *Warſaw*, what could he e're hope to get,
From the Defendent *Bethleſki* thereby
But wicked words, or ſome as bad pretence?
Your Orator's undone if he gets hence.
Now to the end he may not leave the Kingdom,
I humbly beg that a *Ne Exeat regnum*
May Iſſue out to ſtay his *Warſaws* Journey,
Where he may hang and beat by his Attorney,
Till this Cauſe heard, and matters be adjuſted,
For he deceives where-ever he is truſted.

Alſo your Orator does humbly pray,
That he may give ſecurity to pay

The

The Coſt and Charge that may attend the ſuite,
Shou'd he be hang'd or broke e're the diſpute
Be over, for (may it pleaſe ye) in reall truth
There is a great ſuſpicion of them both,
And likewiſe that he may on no pretence
Make uſe of *Salamanca* Evidence,
Which will but give your Orator juſt occaſion,
To ſhew great Cauſe againſt their Reputation,
Only they're Members of a Popiſh Nation:
Beſides a thouſand more that he could name
Which he forbears to ſpeak for fear of ſhame:
In tender Contemplation of which
Your Orator moſt humbly does beſeech,
That Proceſs may gainſt the Defendents both,
Iſſue to call them in and take an Oath,
And clear the Matter in the *Bill* in queſtion
Which won't be hard for men of their digeſtion.
An *Ignoramus Conſcience* puts off Oaths
For profit, as a Whore puts off her Cloaths,
Which gives your Orator great cauſe to fear,
They will his Honeſt Equity Forſwear:
But ſince there is no other Lawfull way,
Let them appear, and at a certain day,
Come, and be damn'd, and Swear their Souls away.
And ſo unto this Court I now leave 'em,
With full aſſurance I at laſt ſhall have them.

ANSWER.

THo' this Defendent is advis'd he might
Juſtly demurr to the Complainants right,
Pretended by the *B*ill, and for this reaſon,
*B*ecauſe it charges him with Conſcious Treaſon;
However that it plainly may appear,
He this Defendent's not afraid to Swear;
Tho' he's afraid of neither Oath or Action,
Yet meerly for the Plaintiffs ſatisfaction,
And his own Credit which he purely values,
For Anſwer, this Defendent Swears as follows.
'Tis true, that he was formerly a Tenant,
To *Joan Ketch*, Mother of the now Complainant,
During which time the Plaintiff was Engendred,
And by thoſe very means came in the Kindred.
After all which, he travell'd, for good reaſons
To *Hamborough* upon his own Occaſions;
Where he Continued until 48.
When he was ſent for over by the State:
And having with a Zeal *B*urning, and Hearty,
*S*hown his Affection to the Godly-Party;
For honeſt *Cromwells* and the *Armys* Good,
Taken a Mornings-Draught of the beſt *B*lood;
And in a Vizard too, altho' for proof,

His this Defendents face is well enough:
And being paid for't, after this Diſpatch,
He went to Viſit the Complainant *Ketch*.
His Mother being Hang'd ſome time before,
As this Defendent thinks 3 Months or more,
He at the Pariſh-Charge was then maintain'd
At the poor Cottage of a Paſtry-friend,
Of this Defendents, Ever True unto
The Syre and Race of Reverend Doctor *O*.
But this Defendent abſolutely denies,
That he at any time in any wiſe
Did ever call him the Complainant *Brother*,
Or that they ever ſo call'd one another:
Tho' for good reaſon he has call'd him ſon,
And then he own'd him ſo, And thus begun:
My deareſt Child, my ſweeteſt viſag'd *Boy*,
Thy Mothers Comfort, and thy Fathers Joy,
I've kill'd the principall, the Cheif, the beſt,
And muſt leave thee to Execute the reſt:
Miſtake me not, be ſure you hang nor draw
Not one of thoſe that diſobey the Law;
Be ſure you ſpare the honeſt *Presbyters*,
But if you find the roguing Cavaliers,
Or fellows who pretend to love the King,
Give 'um no quarter (*Jack*) but let 'em ſwing.

I muſt to *Hamborough* 'bout my own affairs,
But if occaſion happ's to go by th'Ears,
I'le ſoon come over, fear it not my Child,
And in a ſort of Language, ſoft and mild,
He this Defendent treated the Complainant,
Not thinking then that he ſhould hear again on't.
Alas! alas! he did not dream or doubt it,
He ſhould be brought into a Suit about it:
And this Defendent further ſaith, that after,
As he had promiſed, ſo he went by water
To *Hamb'rough*, there to ſcrape and get a Portion,
Intended for the Plaintiff once, (that Whoreſon)
But now he finds him ſuch a Reprobate,
He ne're ſhall have from him one ſingle Groat.
Tho' this Defendent doth Confeſs, it's true,
The Plaintiff for ſome time (give him his due)
Behav'd himſelf indifferently ſo ſo,
As this Defendent ordered him to do,
But this Defendent afterwards beyond Sea,
Having Intelligence that the Old Frenzy,
Or Feavour of True-Proteſtant Sedition,
Was raging ripe, thought he in that Condition
I'le ſoon be w'ye, no ſooner ſaid then done,
He came to blow the Coal and ſee his Son:
The now Complainant (tho' 'tis ev'n a Sin)

That two ſuch Raſcals are ſo near a-kin)
Where this Defendent finding *Troy-novant*,
Did only his deſir'd aſſiſtance want,
And keeping people hot, juſt in the nick,
He this Defendent got the *Bayliwick*.
And ſold his under Bayliffs place to one
Call'd *Richard Rogue-enough*, a man well known
For Piety and Parts about the Town,
Nam'd a Defendent alſo in the bill,
Who in that Office had moſt wondrous Skill;
And then it was that the Complainant came,
And calling this Defendent by his name,
Deſir'd to drink a Cup of beer or two,
At a by-Alehouſe, which he was loath to do
Untill the Plaintiff ſhew'd his Coyn, and ſaid
At his own Charge the Reckoning ſhould be paid.
Two Quarts of beer they had, and by good fortune
There being ſome i'th houſe, they had a Quartern
Of Cool *Nants Brandy*, which is all they drunk,
Tho' th' Plaintiff like the baſtard of a Punk,
Intimates by's Bill that he ſhou'd make him
Drink too much (if he did the Devil take him)
Twas then the Plaintiff thus beſpoke him: Sir,
I have been long the Executioner
To this moſt famous City, and the Country

Adjacent

Adjacent, how it lies ſtill in your bounſty
So to Continue me, I'le do it *Gratis*,
At Common Price, and you know what the Rate is:
The Periwigs, the Cloaks, the Hats, the Shooes
Shall all be yours, Dear Father you ſha'nt loſe
One Slipper of the Profits, pray be'th' way
I'le give a juſt Account each Hanging-day;
Thus was this Poor Defendent wheedled on,
By this his own Rebellious, Nat'rall Son,
Tho' that the Plaintiff was, he did not doubt
As Honeſt as himſelf, or thereabout;
Thus got he this Defendents free good will
To have the Hangmans Place, (and keeps it ſtill)
Not by the means alledged in the *Bill*:
And ſaith, the matter being thus dependent,
*B*etween the Plaintiff, and him this Defendent;
He did expect the Plaintiff would have done
All things on his part like an Honeſt Son,
According to agreement, but inſtead
Of doing ſo, the Plaintiff never did:
Detaining ſeveral Goods, ſome of good price,
And now has alter'd quite the properties,
For which he hopes the Court will not withdraw
His Hands, but he may take his Courſe at Law:
And this Defendent further anſwering, ſaith,

That Notwithstanding the Complainant hath
So often promised ne're to Execute
Dissenting-Protestants, never to do't:
Yet this Defendent to his Grief's assur'd
The Plaintiff is quite fallen from his word.
H' has hang'd an honest Joyner, for no reason,
Only for speaking and for acting Treason.
Nay more then that, as this Defendent's told,
The Plaintiff is become so very bold
To threaten all the Jury (tho' they are
Men of *no Knowledge*, and their Souls are rare
And tender as a Chicken's, who can Cant,
Distinguish 'twixt the League and Covenant,
Betwixt a Christian, and a Protestant;
Who call Church-Papists such as go to Church.)
If such good Godly men are left i'th lurch
And like to fall into the Plaintiffs Pit-fall,
They'd better sure by far have been beshit all;
Which with the Plaintiffs threats made him to fly
Not long ago to a Court of Equity,
To Mr *Dash*.----
There to bespeak of him a *Supplicavit*,
Against the Plaintiff, and he hopes to have it,
Going in fear of 's life unless redrest,
The Plaintiff being his enemy profest:

And this Defendent holding up his hands
*B*rim-full of wonder, moſt amazed ſtands;
Why the Complainant, and on what pretence
Finds fault with *Salamanca-Evidence*,
For that they were (as this is verity)
*B*oth bred together from their Infancy,
As he hath in his Anſwer ſaid before
Upon the Doctors Fathers Reverend Score:
'Till they're both Hang'd, 'twill be a ſad delay,
Without [redacted] that that, *Et cætera.*

J. B.

FINIS.